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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/881,737	06/18/2001	Osamu Takizawa	1341.1097	8761

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EXAMINER

HU, JINSONG

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2154

DATE MAILED: 06/30/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/881,737

Applicant(s)

TAKIZAWA ET AL.

Examiner

Jinsong Hu

Art Unit

2154

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 June 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 and 14-19 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 7-10, 13 and 20-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 11 and 12 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-26 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

2. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

3. Claims 20-26 are rejected under 35 USC § 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 20-26 recite a computer program per se that is not tangibly embodied in a manner to be executable. [It is suggested that applicant to amend claims 20-26 to specify that the computer program be tangibly in a computer readable medium.]

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

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5. Claims 7-10, 13, 20-23 and 26 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Du et al. (US 6,041,306).

6. As per claim 7, Du teaches the invention as claimed including a server device, which is used in a business process managing system having said server device connected to client devices of respective departments inside a company through a network and an outsider cooperative server connected to client devices of respective departments outside the company through a network, said server device and the outsider cooperative server being connected to each other so as to communicate with each other, said server device comprising:

a managing number storage unit which stores a managing number [i.e., sequence] corresponding to the business process, a process information storage unit which stores process information for managing a work flow corresponding to the business process having the managing number stored in said managing number storage unit [col. 4, lines 34-45];

a technical information storage unit which stores technical information formed in any of stages constituting the work flow [col. 4, lines 23-29]; and

a transmission unit which transmits the process information stored in said process information storage unit and the technical information stored in said technical information storage unit to said outsider cooperative server device [col. 4, lines 23-33 & 45-47].

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7. As per claim 8, Du teaches electronic stamping unit which carries out an electronic stamping process on the technical information; and a work flow advancing unit which advances the work flow after the stamping process has been completed [col. 6, lines 60-64].

8. As per claims 9 and 10, Du teaches a template work flow storage unit which stores a template work flow corresponding the business process and a work flow alteration unit which alters the template work flow stored in the template work flow storage unit [col. 7, lines 25-34; col. 14, lines 7-9 & 13-15].

9. As per claims 13 and 26, since they teach the same limitations as claim 1 from different prospectors [i.e., sender and receiver], they are rejected for the same reason as claim 1 above.

10. As per claims 20-23, since they are computer program claims of claims 7-10, they are rejected for the same basis as claims 7-10 above.

Allowable Subject Matter

11. Claims 11-12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

12. Claims 24-25 are not rejected on art.

13. 1-6 and 14-19 are allowed.

Conclusion

14. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

Goodridge et al. (US 5,799,297), Ohmura et al. (US 6,151,583) and Okita et al. (US 6,225,998) disclose workflow management systems.

15. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jinsong Hu whose telephone number is (571) 272-3965. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John A. Follansbee can be reached on (571) 272-3964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>.

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Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the
Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Jinsong Hu

June 24, 2005



VIET D. VU
PRIMARY EXAMINER